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CONGRESSMAN BOB FRANKS
Seventh District, New Jersey

July 28, 1999

RECEIVED

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

The Honorable William E. Kennard
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20036-3505

Dear Chairman Kennard:

I am forwarding for your attention a letter from The Honorable Wayne Smith, Council President of Irvington, New Jersey, regarding the FCC proposal to license new, small radio stations.

Mr. Smith puts forth an idea that I believe deserves further examination, proposing that a certain number of these new licensees be classified to be more accessible by minority entrepreneurs.

I would appreciate it if you would address Mr. Smith's proposal and keep me apprised of your response. If you need further information, please do not hesitate to contact me at 202-225-5361.

Thank you for your attention to this issue.

Sincerely,

Bob Franks
Member of Congress

BF/dt

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July 12, 1999

Rep. Bob Franks
225 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Rep. Franks:

I understand the FCC on January 28, 1999 proposed to license new 1,000 watt and 100 watt low power M radio stations, and is also considering a third microradio class at power levels from 1-10 watts. This new class of service would produce signals that cover 8.8 miles to 3.5 miles. Currently full service stations ran anywhere from about 3,000 to 100,000 watts.

The January 28, 1999 proposal is a great idea. It would allow low cost means serving urban communities and neighborhoods.

I think a certain number of these licenses should be both commercial and non commercial. Hopefully in the commercial area minorities entrepreneurs could be encouraged to own these new licenses that serve predominantly African American, Hispanic and Caribbean communities. Certainly, the consolidation of radio ownership has decreased minority ownership and increased the capital requirements for ownership.

The non commercial licenses could be utilized for community groups, religious organizations, schools and universities that would benefit by having the benefit of an additional vehicle to educate and inform their various constituents.

Please keep me informed on the status of this project and thank you in advance for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Wayne Smith
Council President
Council Member-At-Large

rb/fcc-license

cc: Council Members
Marvin T. Braker, Esq.
Charles Freeman, I-At